

Application No. 09/878,050
Amendment dated October 13, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 117-119, 123, 270-272, and 276 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cameron et al. U.S. Patent 6,202,062 (hereinafter "Cameron"). Claims 124, 139, 277, 292, 307, and 322 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nelson U.S. Patent 5,939,695 (hereinafter "Nelson") in view of Ueda et al. U.S. Patent 4,866,258 (hereinafter "Ueda").

These rejections are respectfully traversed..

I. Claims 124-138 and 277-291

Independent claims 124 and 277 are directed towards a method and a system for scheduling the use of equipment using scanned codes. Generally speaking, the method and system operate as follows. A portable device scans a code. Information associated with that code is acquired. The acquired information includes an upcoming schedule of use of equipment associated with the code. The use of the equipment is scheduled.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no showing or suggestion in Nelson or Ueda of acquiring information associated with the scanned code that comprises an upcoming

schedule of use of equipment associated with the code as set forth in independent claims 124 and 277. The Examiner acknowledges that Nelson does not disclose scheduling, and tries to fill this acknowledged gap with Ueda. The Ueda system, however, does not acquire an upcoming schedule of equipment. Ueda reserves a program for recording by scanning a barcode of a program from a barcoded table of stations or channels. Ueda, column 1, lines 22-27. But the only information acquired subsequent to scanning the barcode in Ueda is the date, channel, and time of a program desired to be recorded. There is no showing or suggestion in Ueda of acquiring an upcoming schedule of use of equipment such as a recorder (e.g., acquiring a schedule of other recordings).

A prima facie case of obviousness has not been made. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 124 and 277, and claims 125-138 and 278-291 which respectively depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

II. Claims 139-153 and 292-306

Independent claims 139 and 292 are directed towards a method and system for providing information associated with a scanned code in a user-determined language. Generally speaking, a code is scanned using a portable device. Information associated with the code is acquired and presented to the user in a language determined by the user. Claims 139 and 292 state

that the "the language is determined by the user after the code is scanned."

In rejecting claims 139 and 292, the Examiner cites Ueda, column 1, lines 15-27. See Office action, page 10. This passage of Ueda does not, however, state anything about selecting languages:

In recent years, in product shipping sections in factories, department stores and the like, a barcode system has been widely adopted. In the system, a seal or the like indicating a barcode is affixed to or directly printed on a packaging box or the like, to identify a large quantity of commodities. And the barcode is read optically to perform controls of going-in and -out and stocks of commodities. Besides, in the case of recording a TV program, a system begins to be employed which makes reservation processing by optically reading the barcode of a program from a barcoded table of stations or channels, the dates and the like, to reserve in advance the program desired to be recorded.

Ueda, column 1, lines 15-27.

This passage states only that the information acquired subsequent to scanning the barcode in Ueda is the date, channel, and time of a program desired to be recorded. Indeed, the word "language" does not appear anywhere in Ueda nor is there any reference to any particular language (e.g., English, Spanish, French). Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the Nelson-Ueda combination fails to teach or suggest all of the features of independent claims 139 and 292.

The Office Action also appears to maintain the § 102 rejection based on Cameron and the Examiner's reasoning that the

language in which information is presented in Cameron is determined automatically:

[b]y making a decision to scan a barcode advertisement from a magazine written in a particular language yields a reasonable belief to the user that after scanning the barcode, [the] user would see the encoded information in a language of the user's preference. So the language selection process is automatically performed. Furthermore, nowadays, many of the websites, have a function to present a particular contents in many different languages.

Office Action, page 10. Emphasis added.

Claims 139 and 292 are not directed to an automatic selection process. As stated previously, independent claims 139 and 292 present "the information to the user in a language determined by the user after the code is scanned." Emphasis added.

It also appears that the Examiner contends that Cameron presents information in a language determined by the user because the user can choose a magazine (or other publication) in a particular language, scan a bar-code in the magazine, and then have the information associated with the bar-code presented to the user in the language of the magazine. Applicants' respectfully disagree. Regardless, even if the Examiner were correct, Cameron still does not anticipate claims 139 and 292 because in Cameron's approach the user would "determine" the language well before the user scanned the code, not after the user scanned the code as recited in claims 139 and 292.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 139 and 292 are allowable over Cameron because not all of the features of independent claims 139 and 292 are shown in Cameron. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 139 and 292, and claims 140-153 and 293-306 which respectively depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

III. Claims 307-336

The Examiner rejected independent claims 307 and 322 for obviousness over Nelson in view of Ueda.

Independent claims 307 and 322 are directed towards a system and method for scheduling the use of a facility by scanning codes. Generally speaking, a code is scanned using a portable device. Information associated with the scanned code is acquired, and the use of a facility associated with the code is scheduled.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no showing or suggestion in Nelson or Ueda to scan a code and schedule the use of a facility associated with the code as set forth in claims 307 and 322. A facility is a physical space or a section of a physical space such as an office or a conference room. Applicants' specification plainly uses "facility" in this manner as applicants' specification distinguishes facilities

from equipment (See Applicants' specification pages 5, 32, and 33; "facility or equipment" or "equipment or facility").

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not made a prima facie case of obviousness for at least the reason that not all of the features of independent claims 307 and 322 have been achieved by the Nelson-Ueda combination. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 307 and 322, and claims 308-321 and 323-336 which respectively depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

IV. Information Disclosure Statement

In the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 24, 2001, applicants called the Examiner's attention to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/330,792. A copy of Application No. 09/330,792 was submitted to the Examiner with the Information Disclosure Statement.

The Examiner has not considered this reference because, the Examiner states, it is not available currently to the Examiner.

Accordingly, applicants submit herewith another copy of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/330,792 for the Examiner's consideration. After considering Application No. 09/330,792, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner write "All references have been considered" on the accompanying unsigned copy of the Form PTO-1449 originally submitted on April 28, 2003

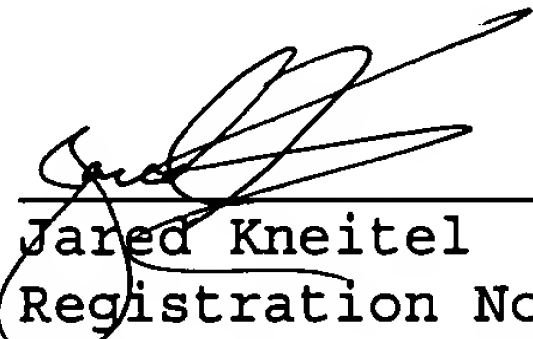
with the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement to indicate that the Examiner has considered U.S. Patent Application No. 09/330,792 in view of this application.

In the alternative, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner at least indicate in the next paper from the United States Patent and Trademark Office that U.S. Patent Application No. 09/330,792 has been considered.

V. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 124-153, and 277-336 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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